

REMARKS

It is believed that claims 13-21, 31-36, and 39-42 and 46-49 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12, 22-30, 37, and 38 were previously canceled owing to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 43-45 have also been canceled. Claims 13, 31, 39, 46, and 47 are the only independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 13-21, 31-36, and 39-42 and 46-49 stand subject to a Restriction Requirement according to which the Examiner has divided the claims into two groups, namely, Group I including claims 13-21, 31-36, and 39-42 and 46 directed to an ultrasonic imaging method and Group II containing claims 47-49 drawn to an ultrasonic model or analog encoding method.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 13-21, 31-36, and 39-42 and 46, for continued prosecution in the application.

The election is made with traverse. The Examiner contends in part that the inventions are separate and distinct because the invention of Group II may be practiced with reception onto transducers other than those on the carrier. Applicants respectfully traverse this contention as grounds for maintaining a restriction requirement in this case. The claims of Group II, like those of Group I, require the use of data from sensors (or transducers) disposed on the respectively recited carrier. Pursuant to claim 47, the sensors are mounted to the carrier, the sensors are activated to effectuate an ultrasonic scan, and subsequently data from the sensors is operated on to produce a model or analog. Moreover, the claims of Group I, like claim 47, do not rule out the possibility of operating on data other than that received from sensors or transducers on the carrier.

As to the "model or analog" referred to in claim 47, that term is broadly used to designate the sum of the electronic data obtained from an ultrasonic scan in accordance with the invention. The data may be processed to generate different images of internal

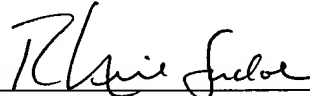
body tissues. For instance, the angle of the view and the magnification may be varied, as well as producing cross-sections of the tissues. Applicants respectfully submit that this storage of data is necessarily contemplated by the method of Group I.

Accordingly, it is requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and all of the pending claims be passed to issue, for reasons set forth in the Amendment filed October 7, 2004.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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